

REMARKS

Applicants offer the following remarks with respect to the rejections of claims 13-18.

2. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,024,825 issued to Kramer (hereinafter referred to as "Kramer").

Amended claim 17 of the present application recites a blade magazine for use in a head assembly of a matboard cutting machine, which magazine includes: (a) a body; (b) a slot disposed in the body, the slot sized to receive a rectangular cutting blade that has a width, a length, wherein the length is greater than the width, a pair of lengthwise extending edges, and a cutting edge extending between the lengthwise extending edges, at an oblique angle relative to the lengthwise extending edges; (c) a shoulder disposed adjacent one end of the slot, positioned to be engageable with the cutting edge when the cutting blade is received within the slot; and (d) a selectively operable means for holding the cutting edge of the blade in contact with the shoulder.

Kramer discloses a whittling knife that includes a holder 2 and a blade having a blade with a lengthwise extending cutting edge. The holder 2 includes a pair of plies 6 and a tongue or strap 7. The plies 6 are clamped firmly against the sides of the blade. The tongue 7 extends from one of the plies 6 to the other of the plies 6, across the edge of the lengthwise extending blade to lock the blade between the plies 6. Kramer indicates that the orientation of the lengthwise extending cutting edge within the whittling knife provides particular functionality:

The holder 2, near the junction of its handle, and the blade clamping portion, is provided with a formed, rearward jog 8 which has the effect of canting the blade holding portion at a forward inclination, whereby, in the use of the knife, as in whittling wood, the blade edge functions more efficiently by reason of the blade edge, which is similarly inclined, having a greater tendency to cling to the material being cut.

Applicants respectfully submit that the whittling knife of Kramer does not disclose: (b) a slot disposed in the body, the slot sized to receive a rectangular cutting blade that has a width, a length, wherein the length is greater than the width, a pair of

lengthwise extending edges, and a cutting edge extending between the lengthwise extending edges, at an oblique angle relative to the lengthwise extending edges; (c) a shoulder disposed adjacent one end of the slot, positioned to be engageable with the cutting edge when the cutting blade is received within the slot; and (d) a selectively operable means for holding the cutting edge of the blade in contact with the shoulder; as is recited in amended claim 17. These differences enable the claimed blade magazine to be used within a head assembly of a matboard cutting machine. The whittling knife of Kramer is not and could not be used in such a manner.

Applicants have added new claim 19. As indicated above, Kramer does not disclose a selectively operable means for holding the cutting edge of the blade in contact with the shoulder. New claim 19 recites that the selectively operable means for holding the cutting edge of the blade in contact with the shoulder includes a screw threadably engaged with the magazine, the screw positioned to act against an end of the blade opposite the cutting edge. The selectively operable means enable the operator to readily replace a blade. There is no disclosure within Kramer of such a structure.

For at least the reasons identified above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the stated rejection and allow amended claim 17, claim 18, and new claim 19.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,967,519 issued to Esterly (hereinafter referred to as "Esterly") in view of the '023 patent.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Accordingly, applicants request this rejection be withdrawn.

6. Claims 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 16 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants request this objection be withdrawn and claims 14-16 be passed onto allowance.

As Applicants have traversed each rejection and objection raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the stated rejections, and pass the present application on to issuance.

Applicants believe that a fee in the amount of \$43.00 is required for the additional independent claim. Applicant hereby authorizes The Commissioner to charge any fees under which may be required to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

In the event a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Order Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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